

## A Unique Benefit of Becoming a NYIFT Corporate Sponsor:

### Summer Scholars Research Conducted at Cornell University Ithaca, NY

Written by: Leslie Herzog, Past Chair of NYIFT and IFT Fellow - The Understanding & Insight Group

Any company that conducts research (or has a summer internship program for college students) knows how expensive it is to run such a program. However, for an investment of \$350 to become a Corporate Sponsor of NYIFT, one of the Section's Corporate Sponsors was able to have a student do a 10-week research project in Cornell University's Department of Food Science with a Summer Scholar for each of the last three years. In the summer of 2019, the research was conducted on-campus; in the summer of 2020 (in the midst of the pandemic), the project tuned into a literature search which matched exactly the needs of the company. The project for 2021, morphed into a project that will be conducted during the academic year 2022 as part of an MPS (Masters of Professional Studies) project in the Department. The NYIFT Section has committed funds in support of the program for Summer 2022.

The overall goals of the Cornell internship program are to:

- recruit and retain students representing traditionally underrepresented minorities in food science;
- recruit students from related disciplines into food science;
- provide experiential learning opportunities in food science for undergraduate students;
- recruit students into advanced degree programs in food science;
- train a cadre of future leaders in food science.

The Department approached our Section several years ago and asked: "Does any Corporate Sponsor have a research project that might be suitable for one of our summer scholars to work on in return for the financial support that the Section is giving to our program?" In 2019, we had one such company step forward with an idea for a potential research project. After several discussions with the administrator of the Summer Scholars Program, faculty at Cornell, and members of the company, as well as signing of Confidentiality Agreements, a student worked on such a project for 10 weeks.

The Company (who requested anonymity) was in contact with the student and his/her professor over the summer to provide additional guidance and answer any questions that arose. They also arranged a face to face meeting at the IFT Annual Meeting in Chicago and sat in (via phone) on the student's final presentation at the end of the Summer Scholars Program. Comments from the Corporate Sponsor about the benefits of being a Corporate Sponsor and having a research project conducted by a Cornell Summer Scholar, included *"providing our R&D team with a good review of options for natural antimicrobial acids. This evaluation at Cornell helped provide us with direction on which natural compounds would provide the best performance while maintaining desired sensory attributes. The Summer Scholar program helped us advance our research in the area of clean label acidulants and antimicrobials."*

For the summer of 2021, because of the pandemic, Cornell didn't allow individuals who weren't already students onto campus. However, the Department Chair was intrigued by one of the projects a Corporate Sponsor had submitted. Discussions ensued between the Corporate Sponsor and the Cornell Food Science Department and it was agreed that the project will be worked on by a student during the 2021 academic year in close collaboration with the Corporate Sponsor.

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Areas of specialization in the Department of Food Science include, but are not limited to: dairy fermentation; wine making; emulsion technology; physiology and sensory science; sensory perception and olfaction; yeast biology and wine microbiology; biomaterials in food and agriculture; improving food safety and quality; food engineering; wine flavor and science; beer quality, hop chemistry and fermentation; mineral absorption and bioavailability; food and dairy processing; rapid detection of pathogens; biosensors.

The Department of Food Science at Cornell will not work on any project that is hemp or CBD related as part of the Summer Scholars program.

There are many additional benefits of becoming a Corporate Sponsor (including, but not limited to):

- Complimentary employment advertising – a **savings of \$200 per ad per month!**
- Your company name publicized in each issue of the NYIFT newsletter and on [www.nyift.org](http://www.nyift.org)
- \$100 discount per booth and premium booth placement at NYIFT's Suppliers' Day
- Receipt of a full list of Suppliers' Day participants with their name, company and contact information shortly after Suppliers' Day.
- Publicity and recognition of your commitment to the food industry throughout the year

Despite the pandemic, unique arrangements have been made to ensure that a project submitted by a NYIFT Corporate Sponsor does get worked on by students at one of the premier Food Science Departments in the world.

With the added benefit of potentially having a research project worked on by a Cornell Summer Scholar, please consider becoming a NYIFT Corporate Sponsor for 2022 today -- ***your investment will help support your research with little added costs and help train the food scientists of the future.***

The deadline for submission of a project proposal is **Friday, February 4, 2022**; no exceptions.

For additional information about the **Cornell Summer Scholars Program**, or how to submit a potential project, please contact Leslie Herzog ([leslieherzog@theuandigroup.com](mailto:leslieherzog@theuandigroup.com)).

For additional information on Corporate Sponsorship, contact:

**Corporate Sponsor Co-Chairs**

Chair Martin Slayne at 469-767-4031; [martin@slayneconsulting.com](mailto:martin@slayneconsulting.com)

Dan Levison at 201-841-5469; [dan@appleandorchard.com](mailto:dan@appleandorchard.com)

Or the NYIFT Office

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